

Message Text

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73

ACTION SCS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 SCA-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6254

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5129

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, CDES (HORMAN, CHARLES E.)

SUBJECT: W/W: CHARLES E. HORMAN

1. FOR DEPT'S INFORMATION, FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS CONTAIN INFORMATION DEALING WITH ONE FACET OF EMBASSY'S INVESTIGATION OF HORMAN DISAPPEARANCE. PLEASE PROTECT NAME OF BRITISH JOURNALIST.

2. ON OCT 9, 1973, MR. TIMOTHY ROSS, BRITISH CITIZEN AND JOURNALIST, WHO SAID HE HAD GOOD CONTACTS IN BRAZILIAN LEFTIST CIRCLES BOTH IN BRAZIL AND CHILE, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT A BRAZILIAN (FEMALE) IN UN REFUGEE CENTER HAD TOLD HIM ABOUT SEEING A BODY IN RESIDENTIAL AREA OF SANTIAGO AND THAT SAID BODY HAD IN ITS POSSESSION A US IDENTITY DOCUMENT. EMBASSY OFFICER ARRANGED THROUGH ROSS TO TALK TO BRAZILIAN AND AT SAME TIME ASKED HIM TO PUT WORD OUT AMONG HIS CONTACTS FOR ANY INFORMATION RELATIVE TO POSSIBLE WHEREABOUTS OF SUBJECT. AFTER INVESTIGATION, BODY OF PERSON MENTIONED ABOVE TURNED OUT TO BE THAT OF US RESIDENT ALIEN OF CHILEAN CITIZENSHIP NAMED ALVARO AGUSTIN SALCE ASCORRA (SANTIAGO 4819).

3. ON OCT 11, ROSS REPORTED HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A PERSON, WHO HE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY, INVOLVED IN GETTING LEFTISTS OUT OF CHILE BY CLANDESTINE MEANS. THIS CONTACT HAD TOLD HIM THEY HAD THREE AMERICANS FOR WHOM THEY WERE GETTING FALSE
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CREDENTIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING THEM OUT OF CHILE.

ALTHOUGH THE CONTACT REFUSED TO GIVE NAMES, HE ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WHEN ROSS ASKED IF ONE OF THEM WAS HORMAN. ROSS DESCRIBED HIS CONTACT AS RELIABLE, BUT INDICATED CONTACT HAD EXAGGERATED IN THE PAST ABOUT THE CAPABILITY OF THE LEFT IN CHILE. ROSS SAID HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN HIS CONTACT WAS TELLING TRUTH ABOUT HORMAN AND THE AMERICANS. MR. ROSS WAS REQUESTED TO GO BACK TO HIS CONTACT AND ASK FOR DEFINITE PROOF THAT HORMAN WAS IN THE ESCAPE PIPELINE. HE WAS ALSO REQUESTED TO TELL HIS CONTACT THAT EMBASSY'S ONLY INTEREST WAS LOCATING HORMAN, THAT EMBASSY WOULD GO ANYWHERE TO PICK UP ANY OR ALL THE AMERICANS, AND THAT EMBASSY COULD PROTECT AMERICANS BETTER THAN THE CLANDESTINE NETWORK. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT TO ROSS THAT WIFE AND FATHER OF HORMAN EXTREMELY CONCERNED, AND FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, WE DESIRED CONFIRMATION THAT HORMAN WAS SAFE AND WELL. ROSS AGREED TO DO THIS.

4. ON OCT 12 ROSS TELEPHONED EMBASSY OFFICER TO SAY HIS CONTACT HAD CONFIRMED THAT ONE OF AMERICANS IN ESCAPE PIPELINE WAS HORMAN AND THAT THEY WOULD TRY TO GET A LETTER BACK FROM HORMAN TO ROSS OR EMBASSY CONFIRMING THIS. HOWEVER, CONTACT REFUSED TO LET HORMAN OUT OF PIPELINE FOR SECURITY REASONS.

5. EMBASSY MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ROSS TO MEET WITH EDMUND HORMAN, FATHER OF CHARLES, TO DETAIL ABOVE AND WHICH WAS DONE ON OCT 16. EDMUND HORMAN SAID HE COULD NOT EXPLAIN HOW CHARLES MAY HAVE GOTTEN INTO SUCH AN ESCAPE NETWORK. HE ASKED ROSS TO ARRANGE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH CONTACT. ROSS SAID HIS CONTACT WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE FOR FIVE OR SIX DAYS, BUT THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE A MEETING.

6. EMBASSY WAS DOUBTFUL OF ROSS' STORY FROM BEGINNING, BUT HAD NO WAY TO CONFIRM OR REFUTE IT PRIOR TO APPARENT IDENTIFICATION OF UNIDENTIFIED BODY MADE ON OCT 18 AS BEING THAT OF CHARLES HORMAN. EVEN NOW, EMBASSY UNABLE COMMENT ON ROSS' STORY UNLESS CONTACT BELIEVED THAT SOME SAFETY FACTOR OR MONETARY BENEFIT COULD ACCRUE TO GROUP RUNNING ESCAPE PIPELINE BY MAKING EMBASSY BELIEVE US CITIZEN INVOLVED.

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